

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1388

By Ferguson

A RESOLUTION to congratulate the congregation of Piney Grove Baptist Church upon its 90th anniversary.

WHEREAS, Tennessee's churches and their congregations are among those institutions in our state and nation upon which a just and orderly society is based; churches are focal points in which our citizens come to worship their Creator as a community of faith and from which they reach out to the secular community as a response to God's saving grace; and

WHEREAS, Piney Grove Baptist Church in Roane County is one such dynamic congregation whose history began in 1920, when its 13 charter members received a deed from the Piney Grove Methodist Episcopal Church for one half undivided interest in their property; the congregation replaced the roof, re-glazed the windows, repainted the building and used the property on the first and third Sundays of each month under the leadership of Pastor J. C. Wilds; and

WHEREAS, in 1934, the Methodists deeded their portion of the church property to Piney Grove Baptist; the congregation worshiped in their building for another 14 years until it was destroyed by fire in 1948; and

WHEREAS; the Piney Grove Baptist congregation immediately began plans for rebuilding, and started worship services in the uncompleted new church in March of 1949 with Pastor Dewey Thomas leading worship; the new building was dedicated in 1953; and

WHEREAS; in 1960, the first bible school was organized, directed by Mrs. Ann Howard; Mr. and Mrs. Paul Sampson deeded a lot to the church for a parsonage during Reverend W. F. Lingerfelt's pastorate; and

WHEREAS, in 1961, Piney Grove Baptist received its first full time pastor when the Reverend Keller Brown accepted the position; Reverend Brown was followed by thirteen pastors, including the present pastor, Jeffrey Sloan; and

WHEREAS, during the 1960's and 1970's, many new features and facilities were added to the church building, including a new heating system, two new restrooms, additional Sunday School rooms, and a vestibule; stained glass was installed in the windows, the choir loft was rebuilt and a new piano was purchased, all without incurring debt; and

WHEREAS, in 1971, during the pastorate of David Allison, new church pews were bought and paid for by pledges; during the ministries of the Reverend Ellis Hill, the Reverend George Strickler and the Reverend Fred Long in the late 1970's, a new kitchen, fellowship area, baptistry and dressing rooms were added at the rear of the church and a church bus was purchased from the Roane County school system; and

WHEREAS, led by the Reverend Strickler, the congregation burned the note for the new addition during the 1978 dedication service; in 1979, during the pastorate of Fred Long, Jr., the church was completely carpeted, paneling was installed on the lower half of the walls and new choir pews, matching furniture and new lights were installed; and

WHEREAS, the building was topped by a steeple in 1983, and from 1985-87, during the pastorates of Rick Nelson and Jeffrey Nave, many new features were added. Church pews were padded, a sound system was installed, and the puppet ministry was begun; the church's first youth director, Phillip Moore, was hired during that period; the downstairs area was carpeted and paneled; the bus ministry and the Backyard Bible Clubs were initiated, and a copier machine was purchased; and

WHEREAS, in 1989, the "Special Friends" class was started and the church purchased the Clarence Jobe property, a store building and house for future development. On September 12, 1990, Piney Grove Baptist Church celebrated 70 years of faithful and dynamic ministry; and

WHEREAS, Charles Craig was pastor in 1993, when the church parsonage was sold, and in 1994, during the pastorate of the Reverend Charles Craig, the Family Life Center, seating 120, was completed; and

WHEREAS, in 1995, under the ministry of pastor Gary Lynn, the church held the "Mrs. Pearl Jobe Appreciation Day" in honor of her 101st birthday; and

WHEREAS, in 1997, looking to establish its outreach ministry, the church began a benevolence fund in partnership with Food City and donated \$250 to the Idaho Mission Project; in 1998 a donation of \$500, in memory of Chad Ferguson, was sent to Hospitable House in Oak Ridge; and

WHEREAS, on November 21, 1998, the Family Life Center was the site of the swearing-in ceremony of the first mayor of the newly formed city of Midtown, Keith Farmer; and

WHEREAS, with the completion of many years of dedicated service to Piney Grove Baptist Church, Pastor Lynn was followed in the pulpit by Interim Pastor Omer Painter, who served from January to December, 2005; and

WHEREAS, current pastor Jeffrey "Jeff" Sloan began his duties at Piney Grove Baptist Church on January 1, 2006; and

WHEREAS, Piney Grove Baptist Church, its pastor and faithful congregation now continue their path of joyous and committed service to God and their community, building on the record of the past ninety years and looking to the future with hope and confidence, always growing in spirit, stewardship, and ministry; now, therefore;

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby congratulate Pastor Jeffrey Sloan and the congregation of Piney Grove Baptist Church for their ninety years of life together as a community of faith, and wish them all the best in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.